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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Moscow may be awaiting the outcome of the Czechoslovak central committee plenum on 29 May before deciding its next moves.

Neither Moscow nor Prague has yet commented officially on the results of Premier Kosygin's visit to Czechoslovakia. Kosygin returned to Moscow on 25 May, apparently without extracting any major concessions from Prague. He may have been mollified by Czechoslovak assurances that Prague will participate actively in the Warsaw Pact and the "international Communist movement," and by the measures taken to restrict the activity of non-Communists in Czechoslovakia.

Still unresolved, however, is the factional struggle within the Czechoslovak party. Moscow, which has indicated it wishes the Dubcek regime to rein in the party's liberals, may wish to delay committing itself to a course of action until after the Czechoslovak plenum discusses the pivotal issues of personnel changes and the calling of an extraordinary party congress.

The liberals within the Czechoslovak party may press for the removal of the conservative central committee members at the plenum itself. In any event, they will continue their demands that an early extraordinary party congress be convened. The conservatives, strengthened by the Soviet pressure on the Dubcek regime, recently have been more outspoken in criticizing the liberal trend and will maneuver at the plenum to counter the liberals' demands.

How the moderate Dubcek leadership handles these conflicting factions will determine to a large extent the future course of the party. Some reports have indicated that the party leadership would recommend that an extraordinary congress be convened in July, but Dubcek may now attempt to obtain a compromise agreement on a later date.

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